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house. Are you requesting right now, Senator Kruse?

SENATOR KRUSE: Yes.

SENATOR CUDABACK: All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 45 ayes, 0 nays, to place the house under call.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The house is under call. All unexcused senators please report to the Chamber. You may continue, Senator Kruse. Your time is running.

SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you. I would emphasize that this brings in, or summarize, really by...that it will bring in 10 million to the General Fund. There's been no increase in the last 15 years. At present, the tax on a can of beer is 2.5 cents; this would raise it to 4 cents. So it's a very modest increase. This type of an increase, as a side comment, has been requested by some persons who have called to our office to discuss the cigarette tax increase. They felt that that would be something that would make them feel better about that increase. It goes to the General Fund and I think that's most appropriate, because that's where the money comes from to take care of infants and...who have fetal alcohol syndrome and will be under our care for the rest of their lives: foster care, lost jobs, broken homes, the Medicaid that comes out of that; corrections has a huge bill on it; injuries; that person's experience both on and off the job; the cost of patrol, local police departments, and so on. We are giving only 27 million on this over 200 million dollar bill. It seems to me appropriate that we acknowledge that cost and try to recover it. Again, I'm thinking about bucks here; trying to cover things that we need to do. And, finally, I'm not really worried about whether this is extra money. We're not to the end of this process yet. If there were extra money, if it went into the Reserve, I would be a very happy man because I think we're going to need our reserves restored in a way. Now is not the time to push the edge. Now is the time to collect that which, again, will not be a burden to anyone, and which will begin to deal with the costs our state is experiencing every year. I urge your support. Thank you.